

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 29, 2005

SKID ROW – DHS PATIENT DISCHARGES

In December 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved my motion requesting the Department of Mental Health to accelerate their infrastructure plans to enhance countywide homeless services. Since that time, the Department of Mental Health has been working to address mentally ill homeless housing issues and access to resources. With the pending implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, the future continues to look brighter for those requiring housing assistance in Los Angeles County.

In addition, the Department of Health Services has also worked to address similar issues and has drafted a report titled, “The Homeless Services Action Plan” that addresses recommendation protocols and cooperation among county agencies to coordinate access to social services within Los Angeles County. The Homeless Services Task Force has also been working to address homeless services outreach within the community on Skid Row.

However, there remain several factors related to those that are either entering into the Skid Row area or are being brought to the area to access services from the community providers within the Skid Row area in downtown Los Angeles. The recent

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news accounts revealed inappropriate patient discharges from Martin Luther King Medical Center, Hollywood Presbyterian and Kaiser Hospitals. These actions are unacceptable and appropriate action needs to establish collaboration between the public-private sector and county agencies in addressing this critical need.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Health Services to work in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Office and the Department of Public Social Services:

- 1) and the Department of Mental Health and the Sheriff's Department to make recommendations on protocols related to patient discharges to ensure that homeless patients have access to social services upon their discharge from a county health facility;
- 2) to determine the feasibility and resources necessary for an on-site Department of Public Social Services pilot program where caseworkers address the needs of homeless individuals who receive treatment at Los Angeles County Medical Centers;
- 3) to report on the status of the implementation of the Homeless Services Actions Plan developed in July 2004; with a quarterly progress report to the board on strengthening homeless services in Los Angeles County health facilities.

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